

Testimony of Scott Lofty
Appropriations Committee
February 18, 2016

Good afternoon Representatives and Senators of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Scott Lofty. I'm a resident of Norwich and don't know where I would be without the legal representation I received from Connecticut Legal Rights Project.

For more than 16 years, I rented a cottage on a farm in Colchester. In the last 8 or 9 years of my tenancy, my pipes would freeze, leaving me without water from December to June. That's right. 6-8 years with no water for half of the year. You can only imagine what I had to endure. My elderly parents came weekly to carry water to me so I could flush my toilet. Once a week, I would go to their home in Marlborough to shower. I had no water to cook, clean, or brush my teeth. I couldn't use pots or pans, I used nothing but paper goods. If that wasn't bad enough, my landlord was holding my mail and I was missing scheduled medical appointments I knew nothing about. Eventually, I couldn't take it anymore and I was referred by the Southeast Mental Health Authority to CLRP. I withheld my rent and the landlord who couldn't provide me water, went directly to Liberty Bank and tried to illegally access my bank account. Thanks to the hard work of CLRP, I was freed from that place. CLRP went to court for me settled my case.

Without CLRP, I wouldn't have a new place to call home. I moved in October. I can now get in and out of my home without any trouble. I have running water and can get in and out of the shower on my own. I'm better able to do things for myself. My medical workers can access me in my new home. Please save these vital funds and protect the legal representation for people with disabilities.